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N. E. FARMER.

☞We most cheerfully comply with the request of the Corresponding Secretary of the Society before which the following well written address was delivered, to give it an insertion in our columns. The profession and circumstances of Mr Mason, do not allow him to become practically acquainted with all the minutiæ of agriculture, and it cannot be expected of a young lawyer, to give the results of personal experience in farming; but the opinions of men in other pursuits in regard to the habits and customs of farmers, and in regard to their duties and the matters in which they are deficient, are always valuable. We have read the address with much pleasure, and we believe it will be quite acceptable to our readers—Ed. N. E. F.

ADDRESS

Delivered before the Worcester Agricultural Society, October 12, 1842, by Joseph Mason, Esq., *of Templeton.*

Gentlemen of the Society—You have assembled here on this occasion under circumstances highly encouraging to the objects of your meeting. The blessings of Divine promise have again been vouchsafed to you in the timely return of seed time and harvest.

The little germs which were cast into the earth but a few months ago, fostered by warm suns and copious showers, and the nightly returning dews of heaven, have sprung up and brought forth fruit, some thirty, some sixty, and some even a hundred fold.

A season of more than common productiveness has rewarded the labors of the industrious husbandman with an abundant harvest, supplying not only the most ample provisions for the approaching winter, but products of superior excellence to exhibit for our mutual edification and improvement.

And now, at this closing season of the harvest labors, you have brought in hither the best fruits of the earth and the firstlings of your flocks and herds, not indeed as a sacrifice, but to display them as a voluntary to the tutelar deity of your vocation.

While these exhibitions are highly gratifying to the taste, and afford an occasion of a most interesting festival, it can now hardly be doubted that they contribute much to the improvement of agriculture, by disseminating a knowledge of the best objects or matters of cultivation and exciting among the farmers a generous emulation to excel in the quality and quantity of the products of their farms.

But these are not the only advantages which have been derived from Agricultural Societies and exhibitions. Their chief benefits have been conferred by their instrumentality in awakening and directing attention to the subject of agricultural improvement.

Previous to the establishment of these institutions, but little attention was given in this country to improvements in husbandry. It was thought sufficient to till the earth in the "good old way," and consequently the wasteful and exhausting mode of cultivation which was practiced in the first settlement of the country, when lands were plenty and fertile, still generally prevailed. It is now but twentythree years since the first anniversary of this Society. Then not a single weekly agricultural paper was published in New England. The *New England Farmer*, which is the oldest paper of that character, was not established till the year 1822.

About this time, a spirit of inquiry was awakened which has already led to great improvements in husbandry, and which promises still more important results. Who cannot perceive that within the short period to which I have alluded, a most favorable change has taken place, in the improved construction of the implements of husbandry; in the more thorough cultivation of the soil; and in fine, in the greater neatness and productiveness of the farms.

But even such a comparison does not give a just conception of the actual benefits which have already been derived from this increased attention to agricultural improvements.

The richness of our virgin soil was sufficient for many years to sustain it against the effects of the most exhausting mode of husbandry. For ages had it lain at rest and been annually enriched by a fresh deposite of vegetable products, which formed a layer of rich mould upon its surface, which was greatly increased by clearing the country, and the conversion of wood into ashes. But this storehouse of food for plants was rapidly exhausting where nothing was done but plow and sow and reap, and must have resulted in a progressive deterioration of the soil, had not the progress of decline and waste been checked by the introduction of improvements in the manner of its cultivation.

But, Gentlemen, although you have much occasion for congratulation in the improvements which have already been made in agriculture, you have still greater occasion for further efforts in this work of improvement.

I cannot, Gentlemen, be expected to give you the results of my own experience. My occupation has not led me to give very particular attention to the practical parts of husbandry. Having, however, passed much of my life in an agricultural community, I have not been inattentive to the great leading interest of those around me. I rejoice that an increased attention has been attracted to the great subject of agricultural improvement. I rejoice that the great value of these improvements is now becoming more generally understood, and that a spirit of inquiry and investigation now more generally prevails. In many of the countries of Europe, as well as in our own, the subject is now commanding the attention of the intelligent and enlightened.

In Flanders, Belgium, England, Scotland, and France, greater progress has been made than in our own country. Pattern farms and agricultural schools have been established. Commissions and other measures to obtain and disseminate agricultural information, have been instituted. The light of science has been brought to its aid, and has led to many experiments by intelligent and scientific agriculturists, based upon practical experiment. The prejudice which formerly existed, and which now exists to some extent against Agricultural Societies and "book farming," as it is contemptuously called, is gradually yielding to the light of reason and the clear demonstration of stubborn facts. It is, indeed, a prejudice indulged only by weak and ignorant minds, and which tends to degrade the agricultural profession from its true character as one of the noblest of the sciences, to the mere drudgery of the field, and to place the labor of the farmer on a level with the labor of his ox.

Is it true that in the great art of cultivating the earth, science can afford no light and furnish no improvements? Is it true that thought and intelligence have nothing to do with it? Then, indeed, "book farming" is a mockery. But then, too, may a blockhead be as good a farmer as any one? Then, too, is agriculture degraded below all other occupations; for among all the other arts which are exercised by man, there is not one which has not become intimately connected with science, and which has not been elevated and improved by the connexion. There is, indeed, a sympathetic connexion between all the arts and sciences, for they are only the various consequences and results of the universal and harmonious laws of nature. The great improvements which have been made in the arts during the past fifty years, is the direct consequence of the unparalleled progress of physical science during that period of time. Of what incalculable advantage has chemistry been in the arts of coloring, bleaching and tanning; in extracting metals from their ores, and the conversion of iron into steel; in the manufacture of glass, paper, paints and varnish; in purifying and refining the precious metals, and a great variety of manufactured articles. Nor have the sciences of mechanics and practical geometry been of less advantage in the whole art of building, in raising weights, in the construction of arches and domes, and in estimating and applying forces. The application of the principles of science to the construction and manufacture of all kinds of machinery, has led to astonishing improvements in every art to which machinery is applied; in the manufacture of all kinds of cloth, as well as of a great variety of articles from the metals. But in no manner has the application of science to the arts conferred so extensive and universal benefits, as by the great discovery of the use of steam as a mechanic power. Time would fail me were I to attempt to enumerate the wonderful results of the employment of this power in driving all kinds of machinery, and in propelling cars upon railroads, and vessels along rivers and across the ocean. Nor is there occasion for me to do so. It would be a work of supererogation to point out other examples to show the great benefits of science to manufacturers, artists and mechanics. Nearly all the discoveries by which the arts have been advanced, have been the results of patient scientific investigation and experiment. The same may be said with equal truth of improvements in agriculture. By whom was discovered and made known the theory of a rota-

tion of crops, by which lands may be kept under constant cultivation without exhaustion? Who have originated the various methods for reclaiming and improving waste lands? Who have suggested the improvements which have been made in the plow and other implements of husbandry? Who have introduced into use the various compost and other artificial manures? To whom are we indebted for the introduction of a great variety of new fruits and grains? I feel that I do not hazard the truth by saying that these improvements, almost without exception, have been made by men of active, intelligent, and cultivated minds, who have studied agriculture as a science, and who have been led to these results by frequent experiment and careful and systematic examination.

And yet, Gentlemen, even at this day, we occasionally hear such men sneered at as "book farmers." I admit that mere book farming—mere theory, which is not based upon practical experiment, can be of no advantage. I am aware, too, that the scientific agriculturist who labors by experiments to make discoveries for the improvement of agriculture, does not always labor most profitably for himself. But this is equally true of him who makes experiments in any department of science. There is no magic glass by which we can see and understand the operations of nature, as Joe Smith reads through the stone spectacles the pretended revelations of God. The laws of nature are discovered only by a patient examination of her works. Experiments which cost much labor and money may fail—wholly fail: but when by repeated experiments, a new fact or principle of science is discovered, which in its application to the arts and occupations of life, tends to relieve the sufferings or increase the conveniences and comforts of mankind, then is all the cost and labor rewarded a hundred fold. Nor is the benefit of the discovery limited to the discoverer. By him, indeed, estimated merely in a pecuniary point of view, the knowledge may have been purchased at a dear price. But to the world it is transmitted free of cost. Its benefits to mankind are coextensive with civilization.

Wherever the light of science sheds its rays, the value of such a discovery is realized by every individual who will avail himself of it, to as full an extent as by the original discoverer.

This is true of every valuable discovery in agriculture. An improvement once well established and tested by experiment, will speedily be adopted by every intelligent and skillful agriculturist, and become not merely an individual but a national blessing.

It has been said that he who makes two spears of grass grow where only one grew before, is a benefactor of his race. How deeply then are we indebted to the scientific agriculturist who makes known a new principle in husbandry, causing not merely two blades of grass to grow in the place of one, but many tons of grass to grow where none ever grew before. And yet in many places a systematic husbandry has accomplished all this, in the reclaiming of waste lands, transforming worthless swamps and marshes, covered with wild flags and rushes, into cultivated fields, waving with grass and grain; redeeming the barren and unproductive parts of the earth; making the wilderness and solitary place to be glad, and the desert to rejoice and blossom as the rose.

But notwithstanding considerable improvements have of late been made in agriculture, there is perhaps no one of the arts of life which has received less benefit from the application of the principles of science, nor is there any which could be more promoted by the application.

A knowledge of chemistry, botany, geology, and mineralogy, would be a great advantage to the agriculturist; but an acquaintance with chemistry, especially, is of the utmost importance. It explains to him the nature of the various kinds of soils, teaches him how to analyze them, and discover the difference between those which are sterile and those which are productive, and thus enable him to supply to the former those materials or elements necessary to render them fertile.

By chemical analysis he may be able to ascertain those principles or agencies which are productive of the most rapid and luxuriant growth of plants, and by supplying these elements to the soil, obtain with the least expense, the largest quantity of vegetable products.

By similar means he can learn the changes which take place in soils during the process of vegetation of particular plants; what element of fertility is taken up or extracted by each, and thus adopt his crops to the nature and conditions of his soils. And as all manures are applied to sustain the fertility of the earth, an analysis of these will teach the kind and quantity which may be applied with profit to each particular kind of soil.

A knowledge, too, of the process of vegetable decomposition, and the effects of decaying vegetable and animal matter in the different stages of putresence will enable him to use these to the best advantage in enriching his fields.

It is said by Dick, on the authority of another, "that the celebrated Lavoisier cultivated 240 acres of land in La Vendee, on chemical principles, in order to set a good example to the farmers; and his mode of culture was attended with so much success, that he obtained a third more of crop than was procured by the usual method, and in nine years his annual produce was doubled."

The application of chemistry to agriculture may well be considered the highest branch of that noble and useful science. For if we consider the vast extent and infinite variety of the objects and materials to which agricultural chemistry may be applied, and its unequalled importance in improving the art of producing food for man and animals, and as constituting the great source of national wealth and prosperity, it must be admitted that while it presents a field for noble and philanthropic efforts for the benefit of our race, it also affords objects for the most nice and critical analysis; subjects for the most careful experiment and investigation, and the broadest scope for philosophical study and reflection.

It has been said that "the undevout astronomer is mad;" and it may be as truly said that the scientific agriculturist who has observed and studied the works of God as annually manifested in the changing seasons, the growth of vegetables, and the wonderful adaptation of the earth and its products to the wants and comforts of man, and who does not feel his soul lifted in devout gratitude to the Author of all these blessings, is mad indeed: for he might plant and water in vain, did not God give to him the increase.

I have, Gentlemen, already alluded to a rotation of crops as among the benefits derived, and to be derived from the application of the principles of chemistry to agriculture.

The utility, and even necessity, of an occasional change of crops, seems to be generally admitted, and a practice corresponding to this belief, generally prevails. I apprehend, however, that the principles of this theory are not much understood, and that the crops cultivated, and the order of their succession, are usually determined by accident or convenience, rather than by any examination of their effects upon the soil and its capabilities of further production.

The theory of a rotation of crops is plainly intimated by the usual operations of nature. A forest of pine trees when cleared away is usually succeeded by oaks, and in the same manner, pine and hemlock generally succeed hard wood. Other trees alternate on the same principles. The various grasses also interchange naturally. For instance, a field of clover will often change "*per se*" into other grasses.

Experience too has demonstrated, that the cultivation of the same plants upon the same field for several successive years, will exhaust the soil, and that the fertility of land is better sustained by a frequent interchange of crops.

Chemistry explains the reasons of these facts, and teaches how they may be made subservient to the improvement of agriculture.

It is found by chemical analysis, that different plants are composed of different elements or substances, and that these are combined in them in various proportions. And as all plants derive their principal nourishment from the earth, it is obvious therefore that different plants will extract from the soil those particular elements or substances of which they are composed, and which are, consequently, essential to their growth.

Hence the cultivation of one kind of crop on the same field for several successive years, will exhaust the soil of those elements or components which form the principal substance of such a crop, and constitute its peculiar food.

It is immaterial whether the process of absorption by the roots of vegetables, be merely mechanical, as some suppose, or whether there is a chemical operation by which the roots of a particular plant separate from their combination in the soil those elements only which form its substance, and which, therefore, nourish it and promote its growth. Those who maintain the former theory—that the operation is merely mechanical—that a plant is liable to take up by its own roots whatever is near to it in a state of solution—maintain, also, that in the process of digestion or assimilation, whatever is taken up by the roots that is not congenial to the growth of the plant, and is not altered by the vital action, is excreted or thrown off, as in the process of animal life.

Which ever hypothesis may be true, then, the result is the same. One supposes that a plant takes nothing from the soil but what it can assimilate; the other, that it returns to the soil every thing which it cannot assimilate.

In either case the soil becomes exhausted of those particular elements which the plant growing upon it can assimilate; and the fact is well attested that the same crop cannot be repeated to advantage, until by some means the exhausted elements of the soil are restored. This was formerly done, and is now, to some extent, by letting the land lie fallow—it being erroneously supposed that the soil, like animal nature, required repose.

But it is obvious that a soil thus exhausted by the growth of one kind of plants, may contain enough of the elements necessary to the production of other plants composed of different substan-

ces and requiring different food to nourish and sustain them. These in their turn may be succeeded by a third and fourth crop of different plants successively, in as many years—each extracting certain components of the soil necessary to its support, and leaving behind or returning to the soil other elements required for the growth and production of other kinds of crops.

Thus in three or four years the land may again become prepared for a crop like the first of the series, and so on again successively in rotation.

In this manner, the skillful farmer may keep his farm under a constant system of cropping, and at the same time improve its fertility and increase its products.

But it is evident that this result will not be accomplished by a mere succession or rotation of crops without regard to their kind or adaptation to the nature and condition of the soil. Unless the rotation be established upon well considered scientific principles, there is no guarantee of success: all is hazard and uncertainty. For as different plants require different kinds of food, and as different soils contain different component elements, it is obvious that a rotation of crops, in order to be successful, must be established with reference to what the plants require and what the soils contain.

It is, therefore, only by a knowledge of the nature of his soils, and the kind of plants they are adapted to produce, that the farmer will be enabled to establish a judicious rotation of crops. Without going into a more particular examination of this theory, I will allude to one more important principle belonging to it, and which should be considered in establishing a rotation of crops.

Plants while green, derive much of their nourishment from the air; and those which have large leaves exposing a large surface to the atmosphere, derive from it much more nourishment than those having a slender stalk and small leaves. Those crops which remain upon the land to ripen after their leaves become dry, are found to exhaust the soil much more than those which are taken off green, because during the time the fruit is ripening, the plant draws its whole nourishment from the soil. These are generally called white crops, which class includes all our grains. The green crops, including potatoes, carrots, turnips, beets, and some others, exhaust the soil but little, and should always be embraced in a rotation of crops, as they serve to ameliorate the soil.

Little of a systematic rotation of crops prevails in any part of this country; but in many parts of Europe the system has been carried to great perfection, and been practiced with eminent success and upon a large scale. Chaptal, a French writer, says that by this means "nearly the whole seacoast of Belgium, consisting of sterile sand, has been rendered as fertile as the best soil; and the richest harvests have followed a judicious system of cropping." "Upon the sands in the neighborhood of Burges, Ostend, Niewport and Arvens," says the same author, "the cultivation of the grains is made to alternate advantageously with that of beans, cabbage, potatoes and carrots." "In the dry bed of sand which forms the soil of Campine, the industrious inhabitants have, with equal success, vanquished all obstacles and fertilized the soil. It is surprising," says he, "to find in these plains of sand, excellent crops, which by their judicious arrangement, are constantly ameliorating the soil."

Equally satisfactory results have attended a system of rotation of crops in England. It is said that the Earl of Leicester, whose lands lie in the county of Norfolk, and are similar to the lands in our own county of Plymouth, by his judicious rotation of crops and other improvements which he introduced, increased the rents of his farms from twentyfive to two hundred thousand dollars a year.

The great secret of good husbandry is to obtain the greatest amount of crops with the least expense and the least detriment to the soil. Extraordinary crops may be obtained with but little attention to principles of vegetation, by applying large quantities of manure and bestowing unusual labor; but this can be done only to a very limited extent, and as the expense of cultivation is increased in proportion to the increase of crop, but little advantage is gained.

Economy is the fundamental principle in agriculture. I have endeavored to show how a farmer may economize the strength of his soils, by a scientific rotation of crops.

By attention to the same principles of science, applicable to a system of cropping, he will be able to make the most economical use of his manures. As there is a great variety in the nature and fertility of different soils, in order to make a judicious application of manures, a farmer should not only understand the different qualities and components of his soils, but he should also have a knowledge of the component elements and effect of the various substances which he uses as manures. These are composed of a variety of elements, which constitute the food of plants. A knowledge of these is, therefore, necessary, to enable a farmer to select and apply as dressings, those fertilizing substances in which a particular soil is deficient, and which are consequently necessary to render it productive.

The importance of chemical tests is strikingly illustrated by another fact, mentioned by Sir Humphrey Davy. He says that some lands of good apparent texture, are sterile, on account of some noxious principle which they contain, and which cannot be discovered by common observation, but which may be easily discovered and destroyed by a chemical test and remedy. The salts of iron, he says, is one of these noxious substances, and this chemists have discovered may be destroyed by lime, and the soil rendered fertile.

I have thus endeavored to show in what manner a knowledge of chemistry may be an advantage to the agriculturist. I might go further with my illustrations, but I fear I have already wearied your patience.

I am aware, gentlemen, that some may reply to what I have said, that a knowledge of chemistry may be a great advantage to the agriculturist, but that to obtain this knowledge requires much time and study, and that farmers generally have little time to devote to such pursuits.

Let me not be misunderstood. I do not pretend that every farmer must be thoroughly acquainted with all the branches of chemistry, or be able to make a nice analysis of his soils, or of every plant that grows upon them. He should, however, have an acquaintance with the different kinds of soils, and the nature of the different species of plants. He should also understand the principles of chemistry applicable to agriculture, and then the knowledge requisite to a systematic husbandry may be easily acquired by experiments upon his own and analogous soils.

A great number of such experiments have already been made and are now continually being made, in this country and in Europe, a knowledge of which may be obtained by every farmer, through the medium of the various agricultural newspapers and journals of our country. From these alone he may learn a great number of facts and experiments, and acquire considerable knowledge of the principles of agricultural chemistry.

Every man who cultivates a farm, should take and read a good agricultural newspaper. Every intelligent farmer who will do this, and use the other means of knowledge within his reach, may obtain the knowledge requisite to establish a systematic husbandry, by which he may essentially increase the productiveness of his lands.

I would not advise every farmer to attempt new experiments. To do this, except on a small scale, might prove ruinous to a man of limited means, or a very limited knowledge of science. There are those who may do this, who have ample means and time to devote to such objects,—men whose minds have been rendered acute and subtle by the study of science, and habits of observation, and who are therefore better qualified to seize upon minute indications, and conduct a course of experiments to a successful result.

I would, however, advise every farmer to obtain by the means which I have suggested, a knowledge of such experiments, and avail himself of every advantage they afford.

Every farmer has much leisure time to read. The long winter evenings can be devoted to no better purpose. If he is not afraid of "book farming," he may find, in addition to the agricultural papers, many excellent and practical works upon the different branches of agriculture, by which he would be both entertained and improved—unless, perchance, he knew the whole before.

Nor is the mere pecuniary advantage the only benefit to be derived from the pursuit of scientific knowledge. Beyond all that there is a compensation not to be computed, in the pleasures of intellectual cultivation, and in the new interest and attraction which it gives to every agricultural operation.

"Happy the man who, studying Nature's laws,
Through known effects can trace the secret cause;
His mind possessing in a quiet state,
Fearless of fortune and resigned to fate;
And happy too is he who decks the bowers
Of Sylvans, and adores the rural powers."

Gentlemen, I will come now to the inquiry, whether the requisite amount of scientific knowledge is possessed by the yeomanry of this our own beloved Commonwealth? And I think it must be admitted that it is not;—that a better acquaintance with the principles of science is required to carry into effect a systematic husbandry. I infer this from the fact, which is sufficiently obvious, that but little of a scientific husbandry prevails in this State. And I appeal to you if the inference is not warranted.

I would, Gentlemen, be the last person to detract from the high reputation of the farmers of Massachusetts. I have lived too much among them not to know their worth. They are and ever have been, my friends and neighbors. But while I honor their incorruptible integrity, their devoted patriotism, their high sense of duty and justice, their general intelligence, and strong common sense, I would excite them to use the faculties which God has given them, in the study of his works, and to avail themselves of all the aids which a knowledge of science can afford, to improve the art of culti-

vating the earth. It was said by Lord Bacon, that "knowledge is power." And the extent of the power which the agriculturist acquires by a knowledge of natural science, has no other limitation than the systematic operations of Nature. A knowledge of her laws gives him the power to use these as his instruments and agents by conforming to their operation. In its application to agriculture, it is not only true that "knowledge is power," but power is wealth, or that which makes and increases wealth. It is the power which a knowledge of the laws of vegetation gives to the agriculturist to tax to the utmost the productive energies of the earth, by conforming to those laws and to draw from her those exhaustless stores of agricultural wealth which lie latent within her.

Farmers of the County of Worcester: These considerations present to you the strongest inducements to the acquisition of scientific knowledge. Apply yourselves, then, to the work of agricultural improvement. Pursue your inquiries and experiments as far as prudence will allow. You will all find enough to do. The system of husbandry is no where so perfect as to be incapable of improvement. You should not be satisfied with doing as your fathers did before you. The old way may be good, but it is quite as likely to be bad. It should only be followed till a better way can be found. It is as absurd now to suppose that no further improvement can be made in husbandry, as it was when Cincinnatus plowed his field with the limb of a tree for his plow-beam and a knot for his coulter and shear. And yet undoubtedly many farmers in the days of Cincinnatus, believed that no improvements could be made in the plow then used. Though we may smile at such folly, I can easily believe it to have been so, when I find the maxim, "Change not your plow," ascribed to so wise a man as Cato the censor. Beware then, that you do not commit a like error. Do not beguile yourselves into supineness by the fallacious dogma, that agriculture has attained its ultimate perfection. Such is the tendency of every age. But so far is it from the truth, even now, that it may more properly be said that agriculture, as a science, is yet in its infancy. It is but a little more than thirty years since attention was first attracted to agricultural chemistry in England, by Sir Humphrey Davy, in a course of lectures before the Board of Agriculture. The first work upon the subject which appeared in France, was that of Chaptal, an eminent chemist and practical agriculturist, which was published in 1823. No American work upon the subject, of a scientific character, was published, that I am aware of, until within a very recent period of time. And these, I apprehend, have been but little read by practical agriculturists, or the principles which they teach but little applied.

It has been my design, gentlemen, to draw your attention to this subject, and awaken your minds to a conviction of its importance. If there is any truth in the views which I have expressed, (and I sincerely believe there is,) then these truths should stimulate you to increased efforts in the work of agricultural improvement. Let not the farmers of Massachusetts be outdone in exertions to promote the progress of agriculture.

No where in the wide world are there stronger inducements or better opportunities to advance that noble art. If our soil is by nature comparatively sterile, so much more need have we of the aids of science. Our civil and religious institutions have secured to all liberty of thought, speech and action. Our schools and seminaries of learning afford to all the advantages of a good education. Where, then, if not here, ought we to expect agricultural improvements to be made? Who are more capable of doing it than the independent and educated yeomanry of our own Commonwealth?

Gentlemen, neglect not the opportunities by which you are surrounded. Apply yourselves to the improvement of agriculture. Endeavor to raise the standard of agricultural education and render the profession more attractive. Our schools should all be made seminaries of agricultural knowledge, that the young who are destined to the pursuit of agriculture, may be educated in its principles. Let these principles be the subjects of your daily study, reflection and conversation. Summon to your aid the principles of science, and diligently apply them to the cultivation of the earth. Communicate your own experience to your neighbors, and obtain from them the results of their experiments and inquiries. Endeavor to establish for yourselves the best system of husbandry, and set a good example for the imitation of others. Thus may you increase your own and the nation's wealth, fill the land with plenty, beautify and adorn the country, and make our agriculture the glory of the State.

"The fame that heroes cherish,
The glory earned in deadly fray,
Shall fade, decay and perish.
Honor waits, o'er all the earth,
Through endless generations,
The art that calls the harvest forth,
And feeds expectant nations."

ADAPTATION OF CROPS TO SOILS.

One of the evils which grows out of our continual efforts to force soils to our own purpose, reckless of the laws of God, is the introduction of poisonous or hurtful plants or grasses—such as ergot, buttercup, darnel, or tares, &c. Where do we most frequently fine acrid and poisonous plants? Certainly it is where we apply our strongest and most forcing manures.

Mr Whitlaw, who has paid much attention to the subject, and written on it extensively, has arrived at the grave conclusion—a conclusion based on numerous facts—that a very large number of sheep and cattle in our highly cultivated section of country, are poisoned, and not a few destroyed by these self same acrid plants. Among these, probably, no one among us is more destructive than the buttercup.

Will it be said that cattle and sheep will not eat it on account of its bitterness? Perhaps not, to any great extent, as long as they can get better feed. But sometimes grass is short, and they bite so close that they receive a little of it. This is especially the case with those animals that are most highly domesticated as we call it—that is, diverted from nature's path. The wild animals, whose instinct is more perfect, will seldom eat laurel or buttercup. Buttercup, however, is chiefly eaten in the form of hay. Our strongly manured grounds abound with it, and the cattle in winter, can hardly separate it wholly if they would; and some of our younger, tougher, half starved cattle, will not try to do so.

Here it will perhaps be asked, why sheep and cattle—if these notions are correct—do not oftener die? To this, I reply, it is for the same reason that men do not oftener die from eating poisonous things. They are tough. The current of life is onward. The poison is usually in small quantities. In the cow or sheep it is often divided between the mother and her suckling. In the hard-working animal it is carried off, in part, by perspiration. In others, however, it irritates slowly, and gradually paves the way for disease, if indeed, it does not actually *induce* disease. Besides, as it is difficult to elevate a race that has been deteriorated, or even an individual, God has provided against its rapid deterioration.

The truth is, however, that both men and the animals, properly so called, in our highly cultivated society, are more or less poisoned continually. Lay open the first passages—the alimentary tube—in man or domesticated animals, and you will generally find a degree of subinflammation, as medical men call it. This state of things—this unnatural redness of the stomach and intestines—is by no means harmless. Grant that no ulcers form, still the parts are injured; and all other parts or organs are injured from sympathy.

Hence—I repeat it—an additional reason for a more simple, natural and healthful cultivation of our soils, and as strong argument against overstimulation. I wish this subject might be fully investigated. What is wanted is to apply the light of science and religion to the pathway of the husbandman no less than to that of other men, of more fashionable, but not more useful employments.

W. A. A.

☞The above is one of a series of articles upon agricultural topics, which are being published in the Dedham American, and written, we presume by Dr. Alcott, whose pen has little respite from its labors of benevolence. To question the orthodoxy of the writer's positions upon matters of animal physiology, would, perhaps, be heretical; for he speaks by the authority of knowledge. But in regard to another of his positions, which comes more particularly within our province, we wish to make a few remarks. We never suspected that *high cultivation* will produce the buttercup. It grows abundantly on some moist soils—but it grows in the pastures that were never tilled or manured, as abundantly as in fields. Clean tillage, connected with the highest manuring, helps to remove it from the land. It is generally true that rich lands, *well tilled*, give us crops as free from noxious weeds and plants, as any other grounds.—Ed. N. E. F.

SPARE THE BIRDS.

I was right glad, friend Smith, that you have taken up arms in defence of the poor birds. The barbarous fashion of shooting sparrows and robins has gone quite out of date with decent men. There are now only a parcel of great grown up boys, two fisted, almost men-kind of boys—who deem it a great thing to carry on this miserable warfare. I saw one coming home after his day's campaign; he was six feet high, with an old rusty firelock on his shoulder, and in his hand, as a trophy, one poor robin. I could not help asking him—Did *you* kill that bird?

The amusement of shooting birds is pretty much the same as if you were to catch some little wren or tom tit, and stick pins into them—he to be the hero who first could touch the little bird's heart and kill him.

I would not say one word against the humane and gentle, and kind-hearted sport, if these gunners would always kill these birds stone dead, and thus put them out of their suffering at once. It is no

sin to kill an animal; but to kill for amusement—to break a bird's wing, to shoot off its legs, to tear away a portion of its beak—in sport! And then for the poor creature to starve to death, pine away, dying by inches—Sport! A man with a reasoning mind, a conscience, fine feeling—doing that which a cat does—torturing to death some poor miserable little victim!

A sportsman—now a sportsman no more—told me that he was cured of his folly by shooting a beautiful bird and breaking its wing. "The poor silly thing," said he, "could not escape me and I picked it up whilst it screamed out in pain—its little heart I felt beating in agony, and its eyes looked at me so beseechingly,—I had not the nerve to kill it; yet I dared not let it go to starve to death. So after mustering courage, I shut my eyes and then crushed its head:—it made me sick of this kind of sport."

There was another story told me by a clergyman not far distant. "When I was a boy," said he, "like other boys I went a gunning: after a long ramble, I found nothing to shoot at but one poor little jay. This was my only trophy of the day's sport. Feeling thirsty, I called at a house hard by where I had shot the bird, with *my game* in my hand. When I got up to the door, I saw a poor idiot boy tied to a chair sitting in the door-way; as soon as he saw me, he began to scream, and curse and swear: it was shocking; he appeared to be in great rage; all I could understand was, 'birdie,' 'birdie,' 'my birdie.' I asked for water—it was given me in silence by his mother. I then asked what troubled the boy. She answered, 'you have shot his little bird, one that had been tamed, and that he had fed at the door every day.' This cured me of the sport."

Reader, do n't shoot the "pet birds." It is not manly, nor humane, nor respectable.—*Portsmouth Jour.*

PROTECTION OF COWS.

Cows at this season should be well tended and protected from cold and wet. Exposure to chilling storms and privation of feed are, at this period, often the causes of disease and even death. No farmer who values his reputation as such, or who has any regard for his own interest, will ever be negligent or remiss in his duties to so valuable and faithful a servant as the cow. But still there are farmers who sometimes neglect the performance of important duties through ignorance, and who, with the best intentions, may therefore need occasionally, a "gentle jog" to set them right.

Formerly it was the case in most districts of New England to "*yard cattle*," as it was technically called, and especially cows and young heifers, from the time they were turned from the tie-up in the spring until October, without any shelter whatever, wet or dry. Such a system could not but be productive of other than the worst results, and, as might be expected, the result was frequent sickness and loss of stock.

In an excursion recently through a portion of Massachusetts, we noticed that on many farms the cows were provided with coverings to protect them not only from the inclemencies of the weather, but to shield them also from the annoyance of flies. When the weather was wet and damp, an oiled cloth was used; if dry, and favorable for the operation of their insectivorous enemies, the oiled cloth garment was laid by and one of a lighter and cooler texture substituted in its stead.

Such a system of protection and defence, cannot we are persuaded, be otherwise than favorable in its effects. As the expense of these coverings is comparatively trifling, they ought to be in the possession of every one who is the owner of a cow. With those who are disposed to adopt them, there will be no necessity, we apprehend, of referring to a tailor, or even to a "plate of fashions," to determine the "cut" or effect a "fit;" the good sense of the owner will at once determine the style, and enable him to give to her cowships' robe the shape best calculated to subserve the end designed. We have no doubt that should this plan be generally adopted, an immense saving would be the result. Every farmer and dairyman knows that after exposure to cold and drenching rains, even in early autumn, cows "shrink their milk;" and particularly is this the fact with regard to those animals in whose systems, though to all outward appearance apparently healthy, there is a predisposition to some disease, not yet visible by obvious and definite signs. To animals in this condition, an exposure to cold and wet is frequently the cause of serious evils, and which, to say nothing of the inhumanity of the thing, will oftentimes involve the merited penalty of personal discomfort and expense. For ourselves, we hold to the truth of the old maxim which declares "an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure;" in other words, that it is better and more consonant with the rules of economy, to preserve the animal's health by expending a few shillings, than to restore it at an expense of as many pounds.—*Maine Cult.*

TRIAL OF PLOWS AT HARTFORD.

The following test of plows is handed to us by one of the Hartford County Committee:

Test of Plows by a Committee of the Hartford County Agricultural Society, Sept. 6th, 1842.

Samuel H. Huntington, Chairman; William Bigelow, Benj. Lyman, Horace Goodwin, Samuel T. Wolcott—Committee.

The plows were divided into two classes, large and small.

	Depth furrow.	*Width do.*	*Power*
Large Howard plow,	6 3-4	15 1-4	468
Small do. do.	6	14 7-8	444
Large Bergen do.	7	15 3-4	575
Small do. do.	5 3-4	13	438
Worcester B. do.	6	14 1-4	594
Large Deming do.	6 7-8	15 3-4	594
Small do. do.	6 1-4	15 3-4	518
Barnaby & Mooers'	6 1-2	13 3-4	500

The Committee were of opinion that the large Bergen plow was decidedly the best turf plow, and awarded the premium accordingly; and that the small Howard plow was the best for general use, and awarded the premium accordingly.—*Brooklyn (L. I.) Star.*

ROBBING AN EDITOR!

The editor of the Portland Argus, Mr Case, gives the following account of the loss of his pocket book in New York, which may serve to put others on their guard against a like mishap:—

"I arrived here this morning at 7 o'clock. Just as I was stepping off the steamboat Cleopatra, I had my pocket-book cut out of my inside coat pocket. It had about $100 in it, together with some papers, of no use to any one but the owner. I have carried this book, I presume, more than 100,000 miles in all, during the last twenty years. I saw the rascal that took it, on board the boat, as he came on from Boston. As usual, when surrounded by a crowd, I kept a cautious look out. My hand was not off my pocket two seconds; and yet the scoundrel escaped without any one being able to identify him. I felt somewhat mortified at being thus outwitted; but it was necessary that it should be so, or I must have been without experience in such matters. It was *his* business to get it if he could; and it was *my* business to see that he did not succeed in the attempt. I am, therefore, much more provoked with myself, for my stupidity, much more than I am with him. I went to the Police, where I was informed that it was done by an Englishman; and that the English pickpockets are the most accomplished villains in the world. They cut open the pockets with a little blade, fixed in a ring, worn upon the finger. The blade is thrown out by a fine spring.

A poor fellow-sufferer who had been robbed of $2,600 near Albany, came into the Police Office, after me, to complain of his hard lot.

No man should carry money in his outside pocket—if he does, he almost deserves to be robbed. The fellow doubtless took me to be a lawyer or a merchant, and concluded that my pockets would "open rich." He did not know me to be a poor editor. He must have been sadly disappointed that he got so little."

Coal Fires.—People who wish for good coal fires, should select their coal as carefully as if it were wood they were purchasing. The size of the coal should be in accordance with the furnace or cylinder in which it is to be burned: as these are large or small, so should the coal be. As to kinds, if the draught be is strong, use the hard Lehigh coal; if a middling draught, use the white or grey ash Schuylkill; and if a poor draught, use the red ash, which is a softer kind. An attention to these rules will be of service to those who study economy and comfort in warming their rooms.—*Selected.*

Fire-proof Cement.—Take a quantity of water, proportioned to the surface of wood you may wish to cover, and add to it as much potash as can be dissolved therein. When the water will dissolve no more potash, stir into the solution, 1st, a quantity of flour paste of the consistence of common painters' size; 2d, a sufficient quantity of pure clay to render it of the consistence of cream. When the clay is well mixed, apply the preparation as before directed to the wood: it will secure it from the action of both fire and rain. Subjected to violent heat, the wood thus saturated may be carbonated, but will never blaze.—*Selected.*

To make Indian Meal Cake.—One quart sifted meal, two great spoonfulls of salt, a bit of shortning half as big as a hen's egg, stirred together; make it pretty moist with scalding water; put it into a well greased pan; smooth over the surface, and bake it brown on both sides. A little stewed pumpkin scalded with the meal, much improves the meal.—*Selected.*

"Father," said a sport-loving youth, "they say trout 'll bite now." "Well, well, mind your work, and you 'll be sure they won't bite *you*," was the consoling reply.

NEW ENGLAND FARMER,
AND HORTICULTURAL REGISTER.

BOSTON, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1842.

GOOD COWS AND GOOD KEEPING.

Some unknown correspondent has furnished us with a communication describing the way in which cows are kept along the banks of a certain *unnamed* river. Such communications are valuable as suggestive of topics for remark, and sometimes they are valuable treatises upon the subjects to which they refer. We make no complaint at the withholding of the name of the writer and of the place referred to; but we must remark, that when names are given, the articles carry with them much more force, and are more valuable.

We often hear farmers blamed for keeping *poor cows*. Facts and arguments are put forth to prove—and they do prove, that there is much more profit in keeping one good cow than two poor ones. This position we are perfectly willing to take, believing that we can maintain it without difficulty. But if we make the inference from this that all farmers are blind to their own interests who will continue to keep cows that are not emphatically *good*, we are exposed to the charge of presuming that there are *good cows enough* to be had, if one will take pains to look for, and will hand over the cash to purchase them. Such a presumption seems to be the basis of many communications that have been printed in relation to this subject. But the *nature* of the present generation of cows is fixed; a small portion of them only are decidedly good for either the pail or the churn. Most people must keep cows not remarkably good, or go without cows. With the greatest care and with a willingness to pay good prices, a farmer is fortunate if he can get a herd in which half the cows shall be good.

There can be no change in regard to the natural properties of the cows in a state or country, without paying particular attention to the *breeding* animals, and taking time to bring up an improved breed. This is a slow process, and if resorted to will forever result in producing cows some of which will be much better milkers than others.

There is not much meaning in a charge of folly in men because they keep many poor cows:—this *must* be the case;—no care of man can make it otherwise. Years of attention may lessen the relative ratios of the poor to the good, but there always will be poor ones left, and many comparatively poor ones must be kept. This, however, is no argument against the closest and best attention to breeding, or against efforts to make the race of cows as good *naturally* or *constitutionally* as possible.

The point in which farmers are most at fault, and that for which our correspondent, and hundreds of others blame them, and with reason too, is, that they overstock their farms—only half feed their animals—let skeleton *cow-frames* drag themselves over the premises, and complain because the dry bones do not give milk abundantly. Wherever cows are kept for the dairy, it is possible, and proper—yes, it is a *duty*—to keep them well. This may be done. If you cannot keep four well, try *two*. The two, well kept, will give more income than the four half starved ones. The goodness of the cow is determined partly by her native properties—but the food also has much, and very much, to do in making her good or otherwise. Keep no more than you can feed well—very well.

How far the farmers are wrong who keep cows mostly on fresh meadow hay, in the particular section of country alluded to by our correspondent, where such hay is very abundant, we cannot determine, until we are furnished with more particulars. Where such is the only hay to be had, a reduction of the number of cows kept would not cause those that are left to do well.

The subjoined is the communication above alluded to:

To the Editor of the N. E. Farmer:

SIR—It has been for some time a source of surprise to me, that some—in other respects very tolerable farmers—should deny themselves the entire profit of their farm stock, simply by keeping poor cattle, and those poorly fed. This remark will apply, I think you will allow, to a considerable portion of our farmers But it is so remarkably exemplified in a certain part of this State, which has fallen under my immediate observation, that I cannot refrain from giving you a short description of it.

The district of which I speak is a portion of some four or five contiguous towns intersected by the ——— river, which in its course traverses an interval of some thousand acres of fresh meadow, producing a mixture of coarse grass, cranberry vines, brakes, and skunk's cabbage, which mixture when dried in the sun, is called "fresh hay"

That none of this production is a wholesome or profitable food, for any of the brute creation, I am fully satisfied, both from observation and something of experiment; but that it will sustain the breath of life for a period, in neat cattle, has been proved to be a fact. Profiting by this fact, the farmers of the district alluded to above, are accustomed to keep large stocks of cattle through the winter, entirely on this extensive morass.

It is quite amusing to witness the enterprise with which the business of *fresh haying* is carried on in its season—the entire male population of the community being called upon to lend a hand in this all engrossing temporal occupation, and their joyous looks when returning to the shore in the evening, with their gondolas freighted with the *precious* commodity, pictures to one's imagination, the expressions on the countenances of the servants of Solomon when returning from a golden expedition to the ancient Ophir.

The result of all this misspent labor is, that not only the barns are filled with the drug, but huge stacks of it are seen towering in all directions; every man taking care to provide himself with a supply, notwithstanding the majority of them are possessed of good *strong* grounds above the tide, which with a moderate outlay of labor and expense, would supply their cattle with wholesome and nutritious fodder. The cattle are taken to the barn in the fall, having had during the summer's pasturage scarcely time to recover from the last winter's "fresh hay" campaign, and are doomed to another siege; and in the spring they are again returned to the pasture famished and emaciated, their projecting bones and sunken eyes giving melancholy evidences of the trying times they have had the fortune to survive.

In that community are persons keeping four, five or six cows, the entire produce of which does not equal in quantity and quality, that of one good cow properly fed. And yet these men who thus practice are not to be set down entirely as bad farmers; they raise good crops of grain, have fine orchards, productive gardens, &c., but they are so influenced by prejudice and former custom, that they cannot be led to consider those semi-deluged prairies, which have been the greatest bars to their agricultural enterprise and improvement, in any other light than as mines of gold situated in their midst.

OBSERVATOR.

A harmless hilarity, and a buoyant cheerfulness, are not infrequent concomitants of both genius and goodness; and we are never more deceived than when we mistake gravity for greatness, solemnity for piety, and pomposity for erudition.—*Lacon.*

WINTER PRESERVATION OF ROOTS.

Those who have good barn cellars for storing carrots, beets, ruta bagas, &c., for use in the winter, will find it most convenient to put their roots in them now. But there are not many cellars in which they will be preserved in *good* condition for use in April and May.

A method adopted by many cultivators of much experience in this vicinity, is to dig a trench in the ground—(if the ground should slope a little, all the better;)—dig a trench about four feet wide and eight inches deep, and of any desirable length. Then take the roots and lay a bed of them in the trench three and an half feet wide—lay more and more upon this bed, drawing in at the sides, until the pile takes the form of a common roof. Then cover the roots with sea-weed, old hay, leaves or whatever is most convenient. Over this covering put a coating of earth an inch thick. If the weather is warm you may open a few small holes in the top through the covering. The pile should be left in this state for some days or weeks, according to the weather. But when the thin coating of earth that is over the roots shall have become frozen, then put on another covering of sea-weed, hay or whatever else you have at hand—let this covering be five or six inches thick; then upon this put four or five inches of earth. Thus placed, the roots will escape the action of frost and will come out in fine order in the spring.

Carrots and ruta bagas should be left in the ground as long as they can be without danger of becoming frozen in. They keep better when thus left, than when harvested early. One experienced feeder on the Connecticut river, tells us that he pulls and tops his ruta bagas and lets them lie on the ground for a week or ten days, and that if a little frozen while thus exposed, they are not injured. We should rather avoid the freezing.

MASS. HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

EXHIBITION OF FRUITS.

Saturday, Oct. 22, 1842.

From the President of the Society, fine specimens of the following Pears: Capiaumont, Buffum, Autumn Superb, Pope's Russet.

From S. Pond—Beurre Diel and Dix Pears—large and fine. Also, Isabella Grapes.

From Hall J. How, South Boston—Isabella Grapes.

From John Cass, Boston—Isabella and White Frontignac Grapes.

From J. F. Allen, Salem—specimens of the Black Fig and Black Prince Grapes—the latter of fine flavor and sweet; and rarely met with in this vicinity.

From S. W. Cole—Jewett's fine Red Apple—a handsome fruit.

From the Pomological Garden, Salem—handsome specimens of the following Pears, viz: Jalousie, Dumortier, Marie Louise, Urbaniste, Pope's Russet, Beurre Bosc, Brown Beurre, Fulton and Dundas.

From John Howland, New Bedford: Beurre Bosc Pears—fine specimens—and six varieties for names, which the committee report as follows: No. 1, Broca's Bergamot? No. 2, Pope's Russet? No. 3, Brown Beurre; No. 4, Passe Colmar; No. 5, St. Germain; No. 6, Marie Louise.

From John C. Gray, an Apple having the appearance of being part Baldwin and part Russet, and called by Mr Gray, Baldwin and Russet—but the russet appearance is doubtless owing to the dark, wet weather in August and September, as other fruits have been noticed to have been affected in a similar manner.

For the Committee,

P. B. HOVEY, Jr.

Time is the most undefinable yet paradoxical of all things: the past is gone, the future is not come, and the present becomes the past even while we attempt to define it, and like the flash of the lightning, at once exists and expires. Time is the measurer of all things, but is itself immeasurable—the discloser of all things, but is itself undisclosed.—*Lacon.*

MASS. HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

☞ An adjourned Meeting of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society will be held on *Saturday*, October 29th, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

EBEN WIGHT,
Recording Secretary.

Oct. 19

THERMOMETRICAL

Reported for the New England Farmer.

Range of the Thermometer at the Gardenof the proprietors of the New England Farmer, Brighton, Mass. in a shaded Northerly exposure, for the week ending Oct. 23.

Oct. 1842.	6 A.M.	12, M.	6, P.M.	Wind.
Monday, 17	50	65	59	W.
Tuesday, 18	36	62	60	S.
Wednesday, 19	47	50	41	N.
Thursday, 20	27	48	37	E.
Friday, 21	29	43	38	N.
Saturday, 22	36	60	54	S. W.
Sunday, 23	46	54	45	W.

BRIGHTON MARKET.—Monday, Oct. 24, 1842.

Reported for the New England Farmer.

At Market 3800 Cattle, about 1500 of which were Beef Cattle, 600 Sheep and 1000 Swine.

Prices.—*Beef Cattle.* We quote to correspond with last week. A few extra $5 00. First quality, $4 25 a 4 50. Second quality, $3 50 a 4 50. Third quality $2 50 a 3 50.

Barrelling Cattle.—The Barrellers did not advance upon the prices offered last week, and purchases were made at those prices, viz: $3 25. No 1, $2 50.

Stores.—Prices for a like quality were hardly sustained, and large numbers remain unsold. We quote the same viz: Two year old $7 a 12. Three year old, $14 a 20.

Sheep.—Lots were sold from 75 to $1 75. Wethers from $1 75 to 2 75.

Swine.—A small advance was effected on small shoats. Lots to peddle from 3 to 3 1-4 for sows, and 4 a 4 1-4 for Barrows. A lot of Old Hogs from a Distillery at 3 1-4. At retail 4 for sows and 5 for barrows.

WHOLESALE PRICES CURRENT.

Corrected with great care, weekly.

SEEDS. Herds Grass, $2 50 to 3 00 per bushel. Red Top, 40 to 50 cents. Clover—Northern, 0 0 to 12c.—Southern, 0 a 10 c. Flax Seed, $1 50 per bushel. Lucerne, 30 c. per lb. Canary Seed, $4 50 per bushel.

GRAIN. Duty, Corn, Rye and Beans, free; Barley 20 per cent.; Oats 20 per cent.

The market remains without any great change on the prices of last week.

Corn—Northern, old, bushel 59 to 60—Southern, round yellow, old, 58 a 59—Southern flat yellow, new, 56 a 58—do. do. white do. 53 a 00—do New Orleans, 50 a 00—Barley — a — —Rye, Northern, 65 a 67 —do. Southern, 60 a 65—Oats, Southern, 27 a 28—Northern do. 30 to 31—Beans, per bushel 75 a 1 25.—Shorts, per double bush. — a ——Bran, — a —.

FLOUR. There has been rather more animation in the market for Genesee, and the stocks not being large, prices have been better sustained.

Baltimore, Howard Street, 4 mos. cr. $4 37 a 4 50 —do. wharf, $0 00 a 0 00 do. free of garlic, $4 50 a 0 00 —Philadelphia do. 4 mos. $4 37 a 4 50 —Fredericksburg, lowl'd 4 mos. $4 50 a 0 00 —Alexandria, wharf mountain, —0 00 a — —Georgetown, $4 62 a 4 75—Richmond Canal, $0 00 a 0 00 —do. City, $0 00 a 0 00—Petersburgh, South side $0 00 a 0 00 —do. Country $4 37 a 4 50—Genesee, common, cash, $4 44 a 4 50— do fancy brands $4 56 a 4 62 — Ohio via Canal, $4 37 a 4 44—do do New Orleans, cash $0 00 a 0 00. Rye, $0 00 a 0 00—Indian Meal in bbls. $2 75 a 3 00.

PROVISIONS. Several parcels new Beef were brought to market this week, but not enough to establish prices, and for the present we omit the usual quotations. For Pork there is an increased demand, and prices are acquiring more firmness.

Beef—Mess 4 mo. new bbl. $0 00 a 0 00—Navy—$0 00 a 0 00.—No. 1, 0 00 a 0 00—do Prime $0 00 a 0 00—Pork—Extra clear 4 mo. bbl. $11 00 a 00 00—do Clear $10 00 a 10 50 do. Mess, 8 00 a 8 50—do Prime $5 00 a 6 00—do Mess from other States,— a — —do Prime do do $0 00 a 0 00 do. Cargo do. 0 a 0 00— —Clear do do $00 00 a 00 00 — Butter, shipping, 6 a 8—do store, uninspected, 8 a 10—do dairy, 12 a 15,—Lard, No. 1, Bestonians, 7 1-4 a 7½ — do South and Western, 7 a 7 1-4 Hams, Boston, 6 a 7 — do Southern and Western, 4 a 6—Cheese, Ship'g and 4 meal, 3 a 4—do new milk, 5 a 6 1-2.

WOOL. Duty. The value whereof at the place of exportation shall not exceed 8 cts. per pound, free. All whereof the value exceeds 8 cts. per pound, 32 per ct. ad. val. and 4 cts per pound.

We have no important transactions to notice in this article.

Prime or Saxony Fleeces, washed, lb. 37 a 40 c.—American full blood do 35 a 37—Do. 3-4 do 32 a 35—Do. 1-2 do 30 a 32 -1-4 and common do 25 a 28 — Smyrna Sheep, washed, 20 a 25—Do. unwashed, 10 a 13—Bengasi do 8 a 10—Saxony, clean,—Buenos Ayres unpicked, 7 a 10—do. do. picked, 12 a 16—Superfine Northern pulled lamb 33 a 35—No. 1 do. do. do. 28 a 30—No. 2 do do do 20 a 22—No. 3 do do do — a —.

HOPS. Duty 20 per cent.

The article came into market quite freely during the past week, and for the most part met ready buyers at 8cts per lb for the first sort.

1st sort Mass. 1842, lb. 8 a 0. 2d do. do. do. 6.

HAY, per ton, $16 to 18—Eastern Screwed $14 to 16

CHEESE—Shipping and 4 meal, 6 to 8c.—New 9 to 11.

EGGS, 12 a 16.

SPLENDID BULBOUS FLOWER ROOTS.

Just received by JOSEPH BRECK & CO., from Holland, a very large and well selected assortment of Dutch Bulbous Roots, among which are the following.

Hyacinths—Double white, double rosy, double red, dark blue, light blue, light blue and yellow, single white, white with red and purple eye rosy, pink, light and dark blue, comprising 150 varieties of choice named sorts.

Tulips—Fine late named sorts, fine double do., mixed single, mixed double, single and double, Van Throil for forcing, Parrots, &c. &c.

Crown Imperials, double red and yellow, single red and yellow, &c. &c. &c.

Polyanthus Narcissus, Narcissus, Jonquilles, Ranauculus, Anemones, Iris, Crocuses of all colors and varieties, Gladiolus, Lilies, Pæonies, &c. &c.

For sale by JOSEPH BRECK & CO., No 51 and 52 North Market st. Oct. 26

POUDRETTE! POUDRETTE!!

The subscribers keep constantly on hand, and for sale, Poudrette in quantities to suit purchasers; packed in Barrels in order for shipping, or transportation by wagon or Rail Road.

The experience of five years past has satisfied many farmers, that this manure has the quickest operation upon vegetable matter, producing greater abundance, and is the cheapest manure they have ever tried.

Orders left at the New England Seed Store, and at the factory in Brookline, will meet with prompt attention.

For sale by J. BRECK & CO, 51 and 52 North Market st., Boston. Oct. 26.

CAMBRIDGEPORT NURSERY,

Columbia Street.

SAMUEL POND,

NURSERYMAN, Cambridgeport, Mass., has for sale a choice assortment of

Fruit Trees, Shrubs, and Vines.

Among them are the best varieties of Apple, Pear, Plum, Cherry, Peach, Apricot, Grape Vines, Asparagus, Rhubarb.

Also—Pear, Apple, Plum and Cherry stocks constantly on hand.

Currents, Gooseberries, Raspberries, &c.

Trees of an extra size always on hand, and will be delivered to any part of the city free of expense.

Orders by Mail, or otherwise, promptly attended to.

Oct. 19. 8w

SITUATION WANTED.

A young man who understands Nursery, Flower and Kitchen Gardening, and Forcing, in all its various branches, and who has had three years' experience in this country, wishes a situation. He will have no objections to going West or South. Can furnish the best reference. Address J. S. at this Office. Oct. 3, 1842.

HOWARD'S IMPROVED EASY DRAUGHT PLOUGH.

Great improvements have been made the past year in the form and workmanship of these Ploughs; the mould board has been so formed as to *lay the furrow completely over, turning in every particle of grass or stubble, and leaving the ground in the best possible manner.* The length of the mould board has be a very much increased, so that the Plough works with the greatest ease, both with respect to the holding and the team. The Committee at the late trial of Ploughs at Worcester, say,

"Should our opinion be asked as to which of the Ploughs we should prefer for use on a farm, we might perhaps say to the inquirer, if your land is mostly light and easy to work, try Prouty & Mears, but if your *land is heavy, hard orrocky,* BEGIN WITH MR. HOWARD'S."

At the above mentioned trial the Howard Plough *did more work, with the same power of team, than any other plough exhibited.* No other turned more than twentyseven and one half inches, to the 112 lbs. draught, while the *Howard Plough turned twentynine and one half inches, to the same power of team!* All acknowledge that Howard's Ploughs are much the strongest and most substantially made.

There has been quite an improvement made on the shoe, or land side of this Plough, which can be renewed without having to furnish a new landside; this shoe likewise secures the mould board and landside together, and strengthens the Plough very much.

The price of the Ploughs is from $6 to $15. A Plough, sufficient for breaking up with four cattle, will cost about $10 50, and with cutter $1, with wheel and cutter, $2 50 extra.

The above Ploughs are for sale, wholesale and retail, at the New England Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store, Nos. 51 & 52 North Market Street, by

JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

April 20

FRUIT, ORNAMENTAL TREES, &c.

NURSERY OF WILLIAM KENRICK.

Of Peach and Pear, of Plum, of Cherry and of Apple Trees, a collection, unrivalled in any former year, for fine trees of thriftiest growth, of new and finest kinds.

Gooseberries of first quality, Apples, Quinces, Grape Vines, Raspberries, Currants, Strawberries, &c. The new abridged and descriptive Catalogue for 1842 will be sent to all who apply.

Ornamental Trees and Shrubs, Honeysuckles, &c., splendid varieties of double yellow Harrison and other Roses—of Tree Pæonies, of Hebaeous Pæonies, and other flowering Plants—of double Dahlias, &c. Rhubarb of first rate newest kinds, Cockspur, Thorns, &c.

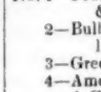
All orders addressed to the subscriber will be promptly attended to, and trees, when so ordered, will be securely packed in Mats and Moss for safe transport to all distant places by land or sea, and delivered in the city free of charge, for transportation by the wagon which is sent thither daily, or orders may be left with any of the agents.

WILLIAM KENRICK.

Nonantum Hill, Newton, near Boston, Oct. 12, 1842.

Oct 12 eptDec 1

LINNÆAN BOTANIC GARDEN & NURSERIES.



The new Catalogues (32d edition) of this establishment, with reduced prices, comprising the most extensive assortment of trees and plants in America, are now ready for distribution, gratis, and will be sent to all who apply by mail, post paid. They comprise the following:

No. 1—Fruit and Hardy Ornamental Trees, Shrubs, Plants, &c.
2—Bulbous and Tuberous rooted Plants, Double Dahlias, &c.
3—Green-house Trees, Shrubs and Plants.
4—American Indigenous Trees, Shrubs and Plants.
5—A Catalogue of Garden and Flower Seeds.
6—Do. do. do. in French.
7—A Catalogue of Double Dahlias, comprising the most splendid varieties.

BOOKS—Prince's Treatise on Horticulture, 50 cents.
Prince's do. on the Vine. $1 50.
Prince's do. on Fruits, Pomological Manuel, containing accurate descriptions, in detail, of about 600 varieties of Fruits, in 2 vols. $2 00.

The Fruit and Ornamental Trees are of fine size, and among which are several thousand Plums, of the choicest kinds, *grafted on Plum Stocks,* 8 to 9 feet high, at the low price of $6 per dozen. Cherries, 9 to 12 feet high, at $6 per dozen. Pears, 4 to 5 feet high, $34 per 100, and larger sizes, 50 cents each. Apples, $25 per 100. Peaches, $22 1-2 per 100. Isabella and Catawba Grapes, $3 per dozen. Orders with a remittance, or stating on whom to draw for the payment, will be promptly executed.

WM. K. PRINCE.

Flushing, L. I. Oct. 1st. 1842. 3w Oct. 5

LACTOMETERS—a simple instrument for testing the quality of milk. For sale by J. BRECK & CO.

MISCELLANEOUS.

For the New England Farmer.

TIME'S DOINGS.

Since last we cronies met, Tom,
Old Time has fled apace,
And stole your laugh, to leave, Tom,
A wrinkle in its place
And now and then the churl, Tom,
Has touched your pow with white,
And left its crown so bald, Tom,
Your brain has worn it bright.

The same old busy fellow, Tom,
Has not neglected me;
But every passing season, Tom,
Has bid some pet grace flee.
He is a saucy chap, Tom,
To use his best friends thus,
But there 's no use in crying, Tom,
He will not mind the fuss.

And as his fleeing proves, Tom,
That life is but a span,
We 'd better try and do, Tom,
What little good we can.
And every day that goes, Tom,
To join the misspent past,
We 'll hope to make its record, Tom,
Some better than the last.

And although care with thorns, Tom,
Has strewed our pathway here,
And every ringing laugh, Tom,
Is followed by a tear;
We 'll do the best we may, Tom,
To brave this present pain,
And by some work of love, Tom,
We 'll burnish life's short chain.

And when old Death, in earnest, Tom,
Insists upon our card,
We 'll try and die like men, Tom,
Nor think the summons hard.
But leave to those that follow, Tom,
The many flowers we 've pass'd,
And hope to find together, Tom,
A happy home at last. TUG.

Good and True.—The natural bent of the young mind to mischief, and sometimes crime, is greatly increased and confirmed in the purest heart, by the least touch of corruption. Confidence in companions leads us to the commission of that which under other circumstances would have been revolting. Freedom from parental restraint is the beginning of loose morals, and he who sends a child to school should be careful to see that his companions are youths of moral principles, and equally as careful to have the instructor a man competent not only in point of learning, but also in point of morals. Nothing can save, when the heart is tainted, but the virtuous example and gentle admonitions of a mother. The youth thus rescued by a mother's influence, in after years will love his benefactor too much to go counter to her counsels—and when her chiding voice is hushed in the grave, no sinful allurement can tempt without the warning accents of that voice being heard from the tomb. The importance of early moral instruction will appear more forcibly, if we reflect that the seeds of vice are difficult to be destroyed. Sown in the young and tender mind, they grow with the growth of the body, and the harvest of age will be rife with poisonous weeds. Store the youthful mind with the sublime teachings of Jesus, so that when the days of boyhood have passed away, happy memory may travel back to the flowery fields of early associations, and find in the recollections of past virtue and present purity, a solace and a joy, of which no earthly misfortune can deprive them. Boyhood integrity, linked to the virtuous aspirations and efforts of after life, can "lighten the burden of the noontide heat," and gild with the light of a well-grounded hope of another and happier existence, the gathering shades of declining life, and the deeper darkness of the nightfall of death.—*Selected.*

Isaac Kidder.—Isaac was a resident, not a graduate at Cambridge, although it is said that he "went through" old Harvard many a time. He had a stammering speech, which unfitted him for either of the three great professions, but nature had endowed him with a strong desire to make the most of present opportunities, and turn them to individual benefit, and he would frequently endeavor to show to mankind that he was a man of tried valor and judgment. Isaac was one day crossing a meadow, and he came to a ditch; so, said he to himself—I-I-Isaac, I-I-I bet yo-o-o-u a ha-ha-half pint, y-o-o-o-u cant't jump over. Done, said he, done. So, going well back, he started, and running smart, he gave a leap and went over. Now, said he, I-I-Isaac, you o-o-o-owe me a ha-half pint. Yes, but I-I'll bet yo-o-ou can't j-j-jump back again. Done, said he—and not using the same exertion, he struck his toes against the opposite bank, and fell sprawling into the ditch. When he had got himself out as well as he could, he shook himself and said—Now, I-I-Isaac, yo-o-ou and I are sq-sq-square.—*Bost. Cour.*

SENTIMENTAL. *Sentiment Rural.*—"I think I must look over it," as the horse said to the gate which divided him from the clover.

Sentiment Consolatory.—"All 's well that ends well," as the young wife said when the old man died—*rich.*

Sentiment Human.—"I 'm a victim to an artificial state of society," as the monkey said when they put trowsers on him.

Sentiment Contemptuous.—"You are beneath my notice," as the hawk said to the field mouse.

Sentiment Apologetical.—"I was really not aware," as the young rat said to the trap.

Sentiment Diplomatic.—"I have the honor," as the blackleg said at whist.

Sentiment Polite.—"Pray do n't wait for me," as the mouse said to the cat.

Sentiment Sentimental.—"Would that we ne'er had met," as the pickpocket said to the constable.

Sentiment Musical.—"Those notes enliven me," as the printer said when a remittance came for five years' subscription.—*Selected.*

A valuable Boy.—"What can you do?" asked a traveller of a country urchin, whom he saw by the roadside tickling a toad with a long straw. "O, I can do mor'n consider'ble: I rides the turkeys to water, milks the geese, cards down the old roosters, puts up the pigs' tails in papers to make 'em curl, keeps tally for dad and marm when they scold at a mark, and cuts the buttons off dad's coat when he's at prayer in the morning!"—*Richmond Star.*

"Can't you draw an inference," said a teacher to a rustic pupil. "Wol, aw don' know; perhaps aw could; but if aw could n't, dad's got aw team at home what could, aw'l bet: for them are steers 'll draw any thing short o' three ton."

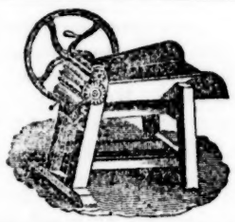
Why is New Hampshire like a horse's neck? Because it has *Maine* on one side.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS, &c.

The Proprietors of the New England Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store No. 51 and 52 North Market street, would inform their customers and the public generally that they have on hand the most extensive assortment of Agricultural and Horticultural Tools to be found in the United States. Part of which are the following:

1000 Howard's Patent Cast Iron Ploughs.	100 doz. Cast Steel Shovels.
300 Common do. do.	150 " Common do.
200 Cultivators.	100 " Spades.
100 Greene's Straw Cutters.	500 " Grass Scythes.
50 Willis' do. do.	300 " Patent Snaiths.
100 Common do. do.	200 " Common do.
100 Willis' Patent Corn Shellers.	500 " Hay Rakes.
50 Common do do.	200 " Garden do.
200 Willis' Seed Sowers.	200 " Manure Forks.
50 " Vegetable Cutters	300 " Hay do.
50 Common do. do.	500 Pair Trace Chains.
200 Hand Corn Mills.	100 " Truck do.
200 Grain Cradles.	100 Draft do.
100 Ox Yokes.	500 Tie up do.
1500 Doz. Scythe Stones.	50 doz. Halter do.
3000 " Austin's Rifles.	1000 yards Fence do.
	25 Grind Stones on rollers.

March 17.



GREEN'S PATENT STRAW CUTTER.

JOSEPH BRECK & CO. at the New England Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store Nos. 51 and 52 North Market Street, have for sale, Green's Patent Straw, Hay and Stalk Cutter, operating on a mechanical principle not before applied to any implement for this purpose. The most prominent effects of this application, and some of the consequent peculiarities of the machine are:

1. So great a reduction of the quantum of power requisite to use it, that the strength of a half grown boy is sufficient to work it efficiently.

2. With even this moderate power, it easily cuts two bushels a minute, which is full twice as fast as has been claimed by any other machine even when worked by horse or steam power.

3. The knives, owing to the peculiar manner in which they cut, require sharpening less often than those of any other straw cutter.

4. The machine is simple in its construction, made and put together very strongly. It is therefore not so liable as the complicated machines in general use to get out of order.

SAYLE'S GARDEN ENGINE.

This is a splendid article. It will throw a constant stream of water to the distance of 50 or 60 feet, with great force, and in case of fire would be a good substitute for a fire engine. The most perfect article for the purpose ever introduced. For sale by J. BRECK & CO., No. 51 and 52 North Market street.

DRAFT AND TRACE CHAINS.

400 pair Trace Chains, suitable for Ploughing.
200 " Truck and leading Chains.
200 " Draft Chains. For sale by J. BRECK & CO., No. 52 North Market st.

TYE UP CHAINS.

Just received by 500 Chains for tyeing up Cattle.

These chains, introduced by E. H. DERBY, Esq. of Salem, and Col. JACQUES, for the purpose of securing cattle to the stall, are found to be the safest and most convenient mode of fastening cows and oxen to the stanchion.

For sale by JOSEPH BRECK & CO., No. 52 North Market st.

NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

A WEEKLY PAPER.

Terms, $2 per year *in advance*, or $2 50 if not paid within thirty days.

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TUTTLE AND DENNETT, PRINTERS.